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CASE AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR LOST-WORKDAY INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, VIRGINIA, 2003

RICHMOND – The Virginia Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2003 showed that there were 27,790 work-related injury and illness cases reported in private industry that required days away from work. Sprains and strains accounted for 39 percent of the cases and continued to be the leading type of injury or illness. Cases that involved contact with objects and equipment made up 28 percent of the incidents. Laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers was the occupation with the most cases and made up 2,040 or 7 percent of the injuries and illnesses; followed by truck drivers, light or delivery services (1,170), nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants (1,140) and construction laborers (940). (See Chart 1.)

Highlights from demographic characteristics data

- Sixty-four percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that involved days away from work involved men; industries where men accounted for the highest percentages were construction (98%) and manufacturing (79%). Women made up fewer cases and the education and health services (83%) industry accounted for the highest percentage.
- Workers in the age range, 35 to 44, accounted for 29% or 8,170 cases.

Changes in Injuries and Illnesses with Days Away From Work Statistics: Beginning with the 2003 reference year, two new classification systems and a redesigned confidentiality method were implemented. The 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Manual are now used to classify industry and occupation, respectively. Prior to 2003, the survey used the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system and the Bureau of the Census occupational coding system. Substantial differences between these systems result in breaks in series for both industry and occupation data. Users are advised against making comparisons between the 2003 industry and occupation categories and the results from previous years. Also new in this release, the data are shown in hundreds instead of thousands. This resulted as part of the change to a new confidentiality system.

- Employees with a length of service with their employer of 11 months or less made up 9,780 or 35 percent of the injuries and illnesses.
- Of those reporting race or ethnic origin, 43 percent of the workers were white only; 19 percent were black only; and 8 percent were Hispanic or Latino only.

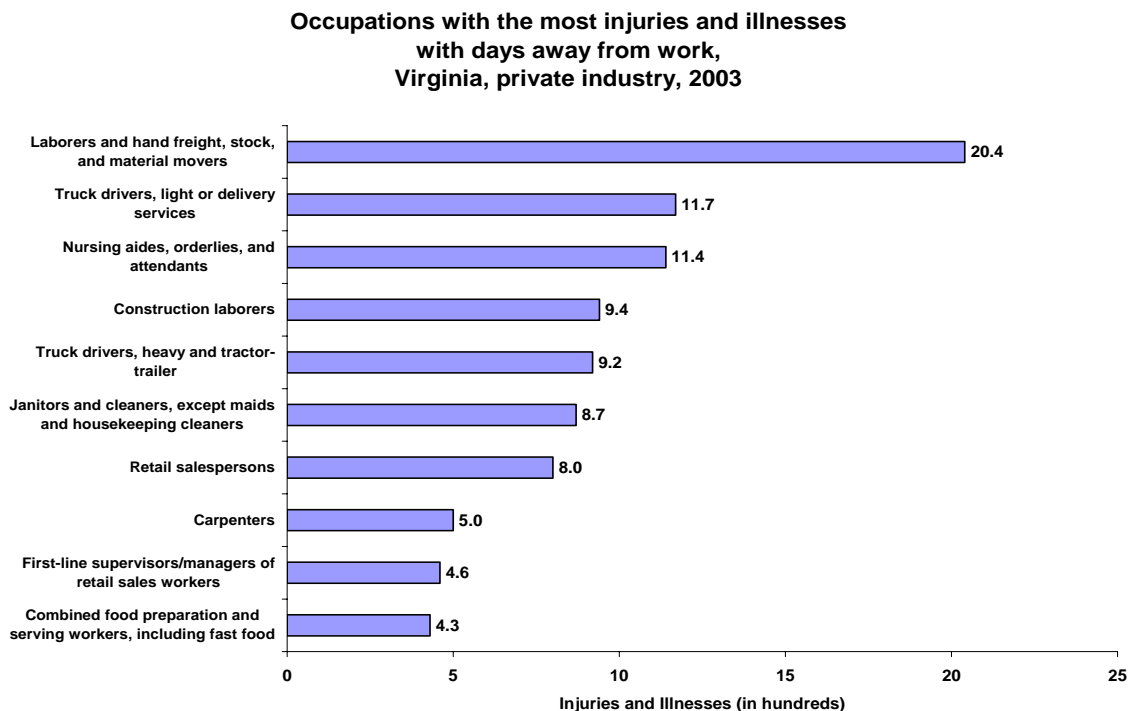


Chart 1

Highlights from case characteristics data

- The leading type of nature of work-related injuries or illnesses involving days away from work was sprains and strains (10,780 cases or 39%); bruises and contusions had 2,780 (10 %), cuts and lacerations made up 2,160 (8%), and fractures had 2,060 (7%).

- The part of the body that was most affected by injuries and illnesses was the back (6,530 cases or 23%).
- Floors, walkways, and ground surfaces (21%) were the main source that directly produced the injury or illness.
- Contact with objects and equipment (7,820 cases or 28 %) and overexertion (6,380 cases or 23%) accounted for more than half of all events or exposures that resulted in a disabling condition.
- For those reporting time of event, occupational injury and illness cases with days away from work that occurred from the hours of 8:01 A.M. to 12:00 noon made up 9,200 or 33 percent of the incidents.
- Of those reporting hours on the job, 40 percent of the cases occurred during the first 4 hours on the job.
- Monday (5,620) was the day of the week that accounted for the most injury/illness cases.

Additional Statewide Information

For detailed statistical tables on case and demographic data from the Virginia Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2003, go to our agency website, <http://www.doli.virginia.gov>. Click on DOLI Programs and then [Research and Analysis](#) to find our web page. A press release on workplace injury and illness incidence rates by industry for Virginia was released for 2003 in January, 2005 and can also be found at our website. In addition, any information can be requested by contacting our department at (804) 786-1035 or by sending an email to Dwight.Crews@doli.virginia.gov.

Technical Notes

The Virginia Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses was conducted by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Survey program was developed to track and produce statistical estimates on injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Injury and illness incidence rates were compiled for employers so that they can compare their rate with the calculated statewide rate for their industry. Injury and illness data on cases involving days away from work were collected from employers and include the employee's age, length of service, occupation, as well as, the nature and sources of the injury and illness, events and types of exposures, and the part of the body affected. It is hoped that the data will bring an awareness of the types of injuries and illnesses that are occurring in the workplace.